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MONITORING THE TRAIN CRASH

by Alan Henney

When the passenger trains collided on Feb. 16 in Silver Spring, as with many disasters, I found myself overwhelmed trying to figure out what best to scan. Multi-agency responses of this magnitude pose a major challenge for scanner enthusiasts.

After comparing some notes with several other scanner enthusiasts, many of whom were at the crash site, here are some observations to help keep in mind for future disasters.

Mutual aid was provided in some form by the District, Fairfax, Howard and Prince George's counties, Bethesda Naval Medical Center, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, among others. Representatives and police responded from Amtrak, Conrail, CSX and MTA/MARC along with the state police crash team, MSP command post and governor's detail, state highways, Department of Environment, state/county medical examiners, Postal Inspectors, DOT, NTSB, EPA, various utility companies, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and REACT.

Considering the numerous radio-equipped agencies which responded, I still found the police and fire channels to be the most informative. All too often I find myself monitoring just police or fire -- while neglecting the other -- which is a mistake. The crash was less than three miles by air from my location. Yet the reception, even from mobile radios on the fireground channels, was poor.

But because much of the traffic on the Silver Spring police channel was repeated, police officers on the scene provided scanner listeners with details which they probably couldn't hear on the alternate fire channels. Some of the most active police and fire channels appear below. Specific channel use varied throughout the incident.

153.9500 Mont Fire CH1; command and logistics
154.2800 Fire Mutual Aid
155.1000 Mont Fire CH4; fire investigators
155.3400 Mont Fire CH5; EMS command
155.5200 Mont Fire CH3; Rosemary Hills command
494.9125 Mont PD CH3; Silver Spring Dist.
495.0625 PG Fire CH4/6; PG command channel
495.3625 Mont PD CH6; alternate
495.3875 Mont PD CH7; alternate

Although the rail frequencies carried related activity, railroad workers exchanged most detailed information via cellular telephone. In some cases conference calls lasted for hours and included representatives from a dozen or more agencies. Some of the most active rail frequencies used immediately after the crash and during the following days appear below.

160.230 CSX CH1/AAR08 Road
160.320 CSX CH2/AAR14 Disp
160.785 CSX CH?/AAR45 Track/Signal Maint
160.875 CSX CH?/AAR51 Police
161.295 Amtrak Police

Montgomery County fire's Collapse Rescue Team arrived with its cache of "task force" FEMA radios. The radios are often re-programmed as required for coordination elsewhere. But the Montgomery County team is assigned the below frequencies for its operations.

408.400 simplex and input to 418.050
417.600 simplex and input to 418.075
418.050 simplex and repeater
418.075 simplex and repeater
418.575 simplex

408.4, 418.05, 418.075 and 418.575 are intermittent wide-area transient and common-use frequencies available for use on a shared basis by all US Government agencies. All four frequencies are used in Washington with multiple agencies sharing each frequency.

We were unable to find NTSB personnel using radios although 165.75 is available for their use. Please let us know if you discovered other frequencies of special interest during the disaster.

MSP TROOPER HELICOPTER CHANNEL PLAN

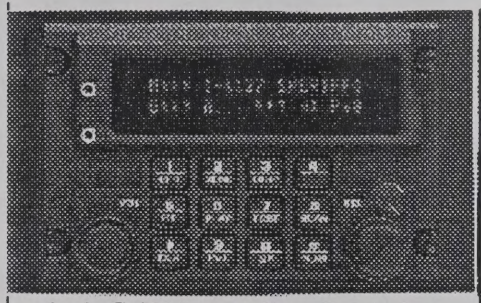
Just what frequencies has the Maryland State Police programmed into the radios of its Trooper helicopters? Only a few years ago the answer was simple -- most of the MSP channels, several med channels and, in what little channel space remained, a few local police and fire frequencies. Although the helicopter radio system, which was controlled by a Global Wulfsberg Systems C-1000 Communications Management Controller, was user programmable, it was limited to only 30 preprogrammed channels.

Preprogrammed channel plans varied somewhat throughout the state. On a regular basis scanner enthusiasts heard a helicopter pilot or medic come up on a jurisdiction's primary fire or police channel only to have the dispatcher refer the crew to a "working" frequency which hadn't been preprogrammed. After the helicopter crew finally entered that frequency into their radio, all too often they were missing the repeater input, or even

worse, a coded squelch tone.

The Global Wulfsberg Systems C-5000 Communications Management Controller has eliminated much of the radio confusion in the new Maryland State Police helicopters. The $5,100 controller holds 350 preprogrammed memory channels. No longer does the pilot have to be a scanner enthusiast to find a frequency. Each channel can include independent transmit/receive frequencies and CTCSS/DCS, plus room for an eight-character channel designator and number. The C-5000 can be programmed using a hand-held programmer or through the keypad.

The C-5000 does for the civilian helicopter what large-scale integrated equipment has long done for the military. The C-5000 interfaces with and simultaneously provides a single tuner for up to three transceiver systems and eliminates the need for separate tuners for each radio. Each transceiver system can consist of up to three radios, allowing operation of nine radios by a



single C-5000 controller. Two independent microphone inputs and two independent balanced audio outputs allow simultaneous use of two radios from a single control.

The C-5000 incorporates three digital voice recorders which allow playback of the last 15 to 20 seconds of a conversation of each of the three transceiver systems. The C-5000 is capable of simulcast, cross-band relay, relay/simulcast, repeater and cross-band full duplex operation across as many as three channels simultaneously. In addition, the C-5000 can interface with the most common types of commercial or military voice encryption equipment including Motorola DVP/DES, GE's Voice Guards, Transcript International KY-58 and others.

The C-5000's screen displays two lines of information which explain the mode of operation using a blue/white electroluminescent lighting. On the keypad, 12 push-buttons carry numerals and letter codes which represent the available functions.

Global Wulfsberg Systems manufactures more than 90 percent of the aviation community's FM radios. Global Wulfsberg radios such as the RT-138F, RT-30, RT-406F Flexcomm and the TR-9600F Flitecomm are a familiar sight in many public safety helicopter panels.

Now, with the assistance of District Firefighter Dave Purcell, here is the channel plan used throughout Maryland by the Trooper helicopters. Listed to the right of the CTCSS tone is the eight-character channel tag used on the C-5000's display. Each of the state's 23 counties has been assigned a number in alphabetic order.

001	39.1000	s	[None]	A01 MSP1 (Statewide)
002	39.2600	s	[110.9]	A02 MSP2 (MARNIS/College Park Q)
003	39.0800	s	[110.9]	A03 MSPW (McHenry)
004	39.2400	s	[110.9]	A04 MSPC (Cumberland)
005	39.3400	s	[110.9]	A05 MSPO (Hagerstown)
006	39.4000	s	[110.9]	A06 MSPB (Frederick)
007	39.5200	s	[110.9]	A07 MSPG (Westminster)
008	39.4200	s	[110.9]	A08 MSPA (Waterloo)
009	39.3200	s	[110.9]	A09 MSPN (Rockville)
010	39.3000	s	[110.9]	A10 MSPL (Forestville)
011	39.0600	s	[110.9]	A11 MSPH (Waldorf)
012	39.3800	s	[110.9]	A12 MSPT (Leonardtown)
013	39.2800	s	[110.9]	A13 MSPU (Prince Frederick)
014	44.7400	s	[110.9]	SYSCOM (Med-evac Coord)
015	47.6600	s	[100.0]	HELI MED (Consultations)
016	155.1900	s	[110.9]	PIL-MED1 (Pilot-to-Medic 1)
017	465.0500	s	[110.9]	PIL-MED2 (Pilot-to-Medic 2)
018	155.7300	s	[None]	REPEATER (Vehicular RP talkaround)
019	155.4750	s	[None]	NLEEF (National Law Enfo)
020	39.2400	s	[146.2]	B04 MSP5 (Tactical)
021	39.6000	s	[179.9]	B05 MSPV (Berlin)
022	39.7800	s	[110.9]	B06 MSPE (Salisbury)
023	39.9600	s	[110.9]	B07 MSPI (Easton)
024	39.8000	s	[110.9]	B08 MSPS (Centreville)
025	39.1400	s	[110.9]	B09 MSPJ (Annapolis)
026	39.0400	s	[110.9]	B10 MSPP (Glen Burnie)
027	39.8400	s	[110.9]	B11 MSPF (North East)
028	39.9200	s	[110.9]	B12 MSPD (Bel Air)
029	39.2400	s	[127.3]	B13 MSPM (JFK Highway)
030	39.4400	s	[110.9]	B14 MSPR (Golden Ring)
031	39.3400	s	[127.3]	B15 MSP4 (Tactical/Bel Air)
032	39.6200	s	[110.9]	B16 MSP3 (Pikesville HQ)
033	155.1900	s	[173.8]	MSP HI B (Barrack to Barrack)
034	151.0400	r	[173.8]	MSP HIWY (JFK Memorial Highway)
035	154.2800	s	[None]	154.280 (Fire Mutual Aid)
036	154.2950	s	[None]	154.295 (Fire Mutual Aid)
037	33.7800	s	[82.5]	01 FIRE1 (Allegany Co)
038	33.6800	s	[82.5]	01 FIRE2 (Allegany Co)
039	155.2800	s	[None]	01 EMS (Allegany Co)
040	460.0500	s	[114.8]	02 METRO (Baltimore P-MARS; AAPD Patch)
041	154.0100	s	[114.8]	02 FIRE1 (Anne Arundel Co Disp)
042	154.3400	s	[114.8]	02 FIRE2 (Anne Arundel Co Patch)
043	39.5600	s	[None]	03 PD (Baltimore Co Patch)
044	46.4600	s	[None]	03 FIRE1 (Baltimore Co Disp)
045	46.2800	s	[None]	03 FIRE2 (Baltimore Co Patch)
046	39.2800	s	[110.9]	04SHERIF (Calvert Co/MSPU)
047	33.8200	s	[None]	04 FIRE1 (Calvert Co)
048	33.6000	s	[None]	04 FIRE2 (Calvert Co)

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049    39.5800   s [None ]  05SHERIF (Caroline Co)
050    33.7000   s [None ]  05 FIRE1 (Caroline Co)
051    39.8800   s [None ]  06SHERIF (Carroll Co)
052    33.9400   s [None ]  06 FIRE1 (Carroll Co)
053    33.9200   s [None ]  06 FIRE2 (Carroll Co)
054    39.9400   s [ 94.8]  07SHRIF1 (Cecil Co)
055    39.9000   s [ 94.8]  07SHRIF2 (Cecil Co)
056    46.1800   s [ 94.8]  07 FIRE1 (Cecil Co)
057    46.5400   s [ 94.8]  07 FIRE2 (Cecil Co)
058    46.4000   s [ 94.8]  07 FIRE3 (Cecil Co)
059    46.3000   s [ 94.8]  07SINGLY (Singerly FD; Elkton)
060   155.5350   r [156.7]  08SHERF1 (Charles Co)
061   155.6100   r [156.7]  08SHERF2 (Charles Co)
062   158.7750   s [162.2]  08 FIRE1 (Charles Co)
063   155.0850   s [162.2]  08 FIRE2 (Charles Co)
064   --------   r [162.2]  08 FIRE3 (Charles Co future RP)
065    39.5800   s [None]   09SHERIF (Dorchester Co)
066    46.0600   s [None]   09 FIRE1 (Dorchester Co Patch)
067    39.0200   s [None]   10SHERIF (Frederick Co)
068    46.3400   s [None]   10 FIRE2 (Frederick Co)
069    46.4200   s [None]   10 FIRE1 (Frederick Co)
070    46.2400   s [None]   10 FIRE3 (Frederick Co)
071    39.1800   s [82.5]   11SHERIF (Garrett Co)
072    33.8800   s [None]   11 FIRE1 (Garrett Co)
073    33.9600   s [None]   11 FIRE2 (Garrett Co)
074   155.2800   s [186.2]  11 EMS   (Garrett Co)
075   460.3750   r [192.8]  12SHRIF1 (Harford Co)
076   460.0750   r [192.8]  12SHRIF2 (Harford Co)
077   460.3000   r [192.8]  12PSMARS (Harford Co PMARS)
078   460.6000   r [136.5]  12 FIRE1 (Harford Co)
079   460.5750   r [136.5]  12 FIRE2 (Harford Co)
080   460.6250   r [136.5]  12 FIRE3 (Harford Co)
081   159.0900   r [103.5]  13 PD 1  (Howard Co)
082   155.5950   r [103.5]  13 PD 2  (Howard Co)
083   155.3700   s [103.5]  13 PD 3  (Howard Co)
084   155.1150   r [103.5]  13 PD 5  (Howard Co Coord)
085   154.2500   r [103.5]  13 FIRE1 (Howard Co)
086   154.2200   s [103.5]  13 FIRE2 (Howard Co)
087   154.1750   s [103.5]  13 FIRE3 (Howard Co)
088    39.0800   s [None ]  14SHERIF (Kent Co)
089    33.9800   s [None ]  14 FIRE1 (Kent Co)
090    33.8400   s [None ]  14 FIRE2 (Kent Co)
091    33.0400   s [ 606 ]  14KQARES (Kent/QA Rescue)
092   494.7125   r [156.7]  15ROCKVL (Montgomery Co)
093   494.8625   r [156.7]  15BETHES (Montgomery Co)
094   494.9125   r [156.7]  15SILSPG (Montgomery Co)
095   495.3125   r [156.7]  15WHEATN (Montgomery Co)
096   495.3375   r [156.7]  15GERMNT (Montgomery Co)
097   495.3625   r [156.7]  15 PD 6  (Montgomery Co)
098   495.3875   r [156.7]  15 PD 7  (Montgomery Co)
099   495.4125   r [156.7]  15 PD 8  (Montgomery Co)
100   153.9500   r [156.7]  15 F 7/1 (Montgomery Co)
101   154.1600   r [156.7]  15 FIRE2 (Montgomery Co)
102   155.3400   s [156.7]  15 EMS 1 (Montgomery Co)
103   153.9500   r [156.7]  15 RIVER (Montgomery Co)
104   494.6875   r [127.3]  16 PD 1  (Prince George's Co)
105   494.5375   r [127.3]  16 PD 2  (Prince George's Co)
106   495.1375   r [127.3]  16 PD 3  (Prince George's Co)
107   495.0875   r [127.3]  16 PD 4  (Prince George's Co)
108   494.5625   r [127.3]  16 PD 5  (Prince George's Co)
109   495.0125   r [127.3]  16 FIRE1 (Prince George's Co)
110   494.8375   r [127.3]  16 FIRE2 (Prince George's Co)
111   494.7875   r [127.3]  16 FIRE3 (Prince George's Co)
112   495.0625   r [127.3]  16 FIRE4 (Prince George's Co)
113    39.5000   s [None ]  17SHERIF (Queen Anne's Co)
114    46.1400   s [None ]  17 FIRE1 (Queen Anne's Co)
115    46.0800   s [None ]  17 FIRE2 (Queen Anne's Co)
116    39.4600   s [None ]  18SHRIF1 (St Mary's Co)
117    39.7000   s [None ]  18SHRIF2 (St Mary's Co)
118    33.9400   s [None ]  18 FIRE2 (St Mary's Co)
119    33.7200   s [None ]  18 FIRE1 (St Mary's Co)
120    46.1800   s [None ]  19 FIRE1 (Somerset Co)
121    46.2400   s [None ]  19 FIRE2 (Somerset Co)
122    39.4800   s [None ]  20SHERIF (Talbot Co)
123    33.9000   s [118.8]  20 FIRE1 (Talbot Co)
124    33.6400   s [118.8]  20 FIRE2 (Talbot Co)
125    39.1800   s [136.5]  21SHRIF1 (Washington Co)
126    39.6000   s [136.5]  21SHRIF2 (Washington Co)
127    33.8600   s [ 77.0]  21 FIRE1 (Washington Co)
128    33.8400   s [ 77.0]  21 FIRE2 (Washington Co)
129    33.8000   s [ 77.0]  21 FIRE3 (Washington Co)
130   453.7500   r [103.5]  22SHERIF (Wicomico Co)
131    33.9800   s [None ]  22 FIRE1 (Wicomico Co)
132    33.8000   s [None ]  22 FIRE2 (Wicomico Co)
133    39.1800   s [None ]  23SHERIF (Worcester Co)
134    46.3800   s [None ]  23 FIRE1 (Worcester Co)
135    46.4400   s [None ]  23 FIRE2 (Worcester Co)
136   460.3250   r [141.3]  OC PD 2  (Ocean City)
137   460.1500   r [141.3]  OC PD 1  (Ocean City)
138   460.4250   r [141.3]  OC PD 3  (Ocean City)
139    46.3600   s [None ]  OC FIRE1 (Ocean City)
140    46.3200   s [None ]  OC EMS 1 (Ocean City)
141   154.3100   r [156.7]  BC FIRE1 (Baltimore City)
142   154.3250   s [156.7]  BC HEAT  (Baltimore City)
143   453.1000   r [127.3]  TF HT KB (Toll Fac; Harbor
                                     Tunnel,   Key Br)
144   453.5750   r [127.3]  TFBAYBRG (Toll Fac; Bay Br)
145   453.9750   r [127.3]  TFNICEBR (Toll Fac; Nice Br)
146   453.5750   r [167.9]  TF FMTUN (Toll Fac; Fort
                                     McHenry Tunnel)
147   453.5750   r [173.8]  TF HATEM (Toll Fac;
                                     Hatem Br)
148   151.3250   s [114.8]  DNRFORES (DNR - Forestry)
149    39.2200   s [110.9]  DNRMARIN (DNR - Marine PD)
150   166.5125   s [None ]  P40 OPS  (Desert Ground,
                                     Camp David)
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151 462.9750 d [127.3] CALL 2A (EMS Call 2; Tone A)
152 462.9750 d [146.2] CALL 2B (EMS Call 2; Tone B)
153 462.9750 d [167.9] CALL 2C (EMS Call 2; Tone C)
154 453.8000 r [162.2] PDABERDE (Aberdeen PD)
155 453.5500 r [136.5] PDBELAIR (Bel Air PD)
156 453.3000 r [141.3] PDCAMBRG (Cambridge PD)
157 460.1750 r [127.3] PDCUMBER (Cumberland PD)
158 154.9500 r [156.7] PDEASTON (Easton PD)
159 155.7900 r [123.0] PDELKTON (Elkton PD)
160 37.3200 s [None] PDHDGLOW (Havre de Grace PD)
161 460.2250 r [261] PDHDG HI (Havre de Grace PD)
162 495.2375 r [156.7] PDROCKVL (Rockville PD)
163 460.3750 r [141.3] PD SBY 2 (Salisbury PD)
164 460.0750 r [141.3] PD SBY 1 (Salisbury PD)
165 155.8950 r [025] FD SBY (Salisbury FD)
166 166.9250 r [127.3] USPP 2 (US Park PD)
167 166.7250 r [127.3] USPP 1 (US Park PD)
168 167.0750 r [127.3] USPP 3 (US Park PD)
169 151.2800 r [118.8] MNCPP 1 (MD Park PD)
170 151.3400 s [118.8] MNCPP 2 (MD Park PD)
171 42.2600 d [151.4] WVSP MB1 (mob to base; p/w 42.1)
172 42.1000 d [151.4] WVSP BM1 (base to mob; p/w 42.26)
173 42.2600 d [167.9] WVSP MB2 (mob to base; p/w 42.1)
174 42.1000 d [167.9] WVSP BM2 (base to mob; p/w 42.26)
175 159.0000 d [167.9] VSPFAIRF (p/w 154.935)
176 159.1350 d [167.9] VSP PW (p/w 155.46)
177 154.6650 s [167.9] VSP TAC(Tactical)
178 154.6650 r [123.0] DSP 1 NC (New Castle Co)
179 154.9350 r [123.0] DSP2KENT (Kent Co)
180 154.7550 r [123.0] DSP3 SUS (Sussex Co)
181 154.8600 s [None] DSP SWEN (StatewideEmerNet)
182 45.0200 s [None] DSP AVCM (Aviation Branch)
183 155.5800 d [186.2] PSP A AD (Ch A, Adams Co; p/w 154.95)
184 155.6700 d [186.2] PSP B YK (Ch B, York Co; p/w 155.91)
185 155.5050 d [186.2] PSP C FR (Ch C, Franklin Co; p/w 155.85)
186 154.6650 d [186.2] PSP D (Ch D; p/w 158.91)
187 154.6950 d [186.2] PSP E (Ch E; p/w 154.905)
188 154.9200 d [186.2] PSP F (Ch F; p/w 154.83)
189 154.7550 s [186.2] PSP M/M (mobile to mobile)
190 154.2050 s [77.0] DC EMS (Ch 4)
191 154.1900 s [77.0] DC FIRE (Ch 5)
192 151.9550 s [127.3] GERMS (Georgetown Univ EMS)
193 462.9500 s [203.5] MEDSTAR(MedSTAR Helicopter)
194 33.9000 s [None] BERK F-1 (BerkeleyCoWVFire)
195 155.3400 s [None] BERK EMS (BerkeleyCoWVEMS)
196 453.5250 r [141.3] BERK SHF (Berkeley Co WV Sheriff)
197 46.1400 s [None] GRANT F1 (Grant Co WV Fire)
198 33.8800 s [None] GRANT F2 (Grant Co WV Fire)
199 37.2800 s [None] GRANTSHF (Grant Co WV Sheriff)
200 46.1400 s [None] HAMP F-1 (Hampshire Co WV Fire)
201 155.4000 s [None] HAMP EMS (Hampshire Co WV EMS)
202 37.2800 s [None] HAMP SHF (Hampshire Co WV Sheriff)
203 46.1400 s [None] HRDY F-1 (Hardy Co WV Fire)
204 155.2800 s [None] HRDY EMS (Hardy Co WV EMS)
205 37.2800 s [None] HRDY SHF (Hardy Co WV Sheriff)
206 153.8600 s [162.2] JEFF F-1 (Jefferson Co WV Fire)
207 37.2800 s [118.8] JEFF PD1 (Jefferson Co WV Police)
208 155.3850 s [None] JEFF EMS (Jefferson Co WV EMS)
209 155.8350 r [100.0] MIN F-10 (Mineral Co WV Fire)
210 153.7850 s [100.0] MIN F-8 (Mineral Co WV Fire)
211 155.8050 r [100.0] MIN SHRF (Mineral Co WV Sheriff)
212 46.1000 s [None] PRES F-1 (Preston Co WV Fire)
213 155.2350 s [None] PRES EMS (Preston Co WV EMS)
214 39.9800 s [None] PRES SHF (Preston Co WV Sheriff)
215 45.8800 s [None] TUCK F-1 (Tucker Co WV Fire)
216 155.2350 s [None] TUCK EMS (Tucker Co WV EMS)
217 39.9000 s [None] TUCK SHF (Tucker Co WV Sheriff)
218 46.1000 s [None] CLRK F-1 (Clarke Co VA Fire)
219 39.2000 s [None] CLRK SHF (Clarke Co VA Sheriff)
220 460.5750 r [94.8] FFX FIRE (Fairfax Co VA Fire)
221 46.3800 s [None] LOUDN FD (Loudoun Co VA Fire)
222 39.7800 s [118.8] LOUD SHF (Loudoun Co VA Sheriff)
223 33.7000 s [None] SOM FIRE (Somerset Co PA Fire)
224 155.1750 s [77.0] SOM EMS (Somerset Co PA EMS)
225 45.1000 s [None] SOM SHRF (Somerset Co PA Sheriff)
226 33.7400 s [None] BED FIRE (Bedford Co PA Fire)
227 155.2200 s [82.5] BED EMS (Bedford Co PA EMS)
228 45.1400 s [None] BED SHRF (Bedford Co PA Sheriff)
229 46.1600 s [186.2] FKLN F-1 (Franklin Co PA Fire)
230 462.9750 d [156.7] FKLN M10 (Franklin Co PA EMS)
231 45.5200 s [186.2] FKLN PD1 (Franklin Co PA Police)
232 46.1800 s [186.2] ADMS F-1 (Adams Co PA Fire)
233 46.2600 s [186.2] ADMS F-3 (Adams Co PA Fire)
234 462.9500 d [186.2] ADMS M9 (Adams Co PA EMS)
235 46.5000 s [186.2] ADMS PD1 (Adams Co PA Police)
236 33.8800 s [186.2] YORK F-2 (York Co PA Fire)
237 33.5600 s [186.2] YORK F-3 (York Co PA Fire)
238 462.9750 d [186.2] YORK M10 (York Co PA EMS)
239 45.5800 s [186.2] YORK PD1(York Co PA Police)
240 45.1800 s [186.2] YORK PD2(York Co PA Police)
241 33.7800 s [None] FIRE DEL (Delaware Statewide Disp)
242 156.1650 r [103.5] NCCPD1/2 (New Castle Co DE Police)
243 155.1150 r [103.5] NCCPD3/4 (New Castle Co DE Police)
244 154.7550 r [123.0] SUX PD'S (Sussex Co DE Mun Police)
245 to 300 future use
301 463.0000 d [127.3] MED 1-A
302 463.0250 d [127.3] MED 2-A
303 463.0500 d [127.3] MED 3-A
304 463.0750 d [127.3] MED 4-A
305 463.1000 d [127.3] MED 5-A
306 463.1250 d [127.3] MED 6-A
307 463.1500 d [127.3] MED 7-A
308 463.1750 d [127.3] MED 8-A
309 462.9500 d [127.3] CALL 1A
310 462.9750 d [127.3] CALL 2A
311 463.0000 d [146.2] MED 1-B
312 463.0250 d [146.2] MED 2-B

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313 463.0500 d [146.2] MED 3-B
314 463.0750 d [146.2] MED 4-B
315 463.1000 d [146.2] MED 5-B
316 463.1250 d [146.2] MED 6-B
317 463.1500 d [146.2] MED 7-B
318 463.1750 d [146.2] MED 8-B
319 462.9500 d [146.2] CALL 1B
320 462.9750 d [146.2] CALL 2B
321 463.0000 d [167.9] MED 1-C
322 463.0250 d [167.9] MED 2-C
323 463.0500 d [167.9] MED 3-C
324 463.0750 d [167.9] MED 4-C
325 463.1000 d [167.9] MED 5-C
326 463.1250 d [167.9] MED 6-C
327 463.1500 d [167.9] MED 7-C
328 463.1750 d [167.9] MED 8-C
329 462.9500 d [167.9] CALL 1C
330 462.9750 d [167.9] CALL 2C
331 463.0000 d [192.8] MED 1-D
332 463.0250 d [192.8] MED 2-D
333 463.0500 d [192.8] MED 3-D
334 463.0750 d [192.8] MED 4-D
335 463.1000 d [192.8] MED 5-D
336 463.1250 d [192.8] MED 6-D
337 463.1500 d [192.8] MED 7-D
338 463.1750 d [192.8] MED 8-D
339 462.9500 d [192.8] CALL 1D
340 462.9750 d [192.8] CALL 2D
341 to 350 future use
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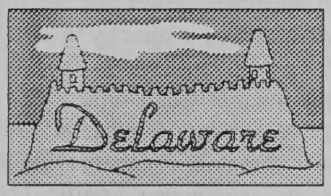


UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COMMUNICATIONS

by John Korman

The University of Delaware Public Safety (known on the radio as "U-Comm") uses Motorola radios in the UHF-T band (500 MHz). The primary dispatch frequency, 501.6625, is used by UDEL police, security and the UDEL Emergency Care unit, the campus-owned, student-run BLS ambulance which serves only the campus. The secondary frequency is 501.5125 which is used for public events and by UDEL's traffic division and shuttle buses. Both channels are active on a 24-hour basis with Friday and Saturday nights being the busiest.

Student aides, police and security officers use six-channel Motorola HT600 portable radios. The UDEL Emergency Care unit now uses a Motorola HT1000 radio with both UDEL frequencies (501.6625 and 501.5125), the statewide 33.78 fire simulcast channel (460.625), all eight med channels (463.0-463.175) and Call 1/Med 9 (462.95). Repeater sites are on top of the Christiana Towers at Laird Campus. With only two main channels and two simplex channels, communications at the University of Delaware are set!

UDEL Channel Plan

501.6625 r CH1 Newark Campus
501.6625 s CH2 Talkaround
501.6625 r CH3 Wilmington Campus
501.6625 s CH4 Talkaround
501.5125 r CH5 Spec Evts, Traffic, Buses
501.5125s CH6 Talkaround

All channels receive with a CTCSS of 123.0, but a different tone is used on the input.

UDEL public safety formerly used 453.625. Security at UDEL's College of Marine Studies in Lewes remains on 453.625 [123.0]. UDEL is installing an enhanced 9-1-1 system. When the system is implemented, 9-1-1 calls from the Newark campus will go directly to the public safety office instead of the Newark 9-1-1 center.

BITS AND PIECES

DCFD BACK ON 33.06? The District's fire department, says John Scott, is considering using 33.06, its former ambulance channel, to transmit the vocalarm. The vocalarm is a voice circuit used for initial dispatch of apparatus. Currently the vocalarm is connected to each firehouse by landlines. The lines are so often damaged or cut by construction crews, John notes, that a radio link may be the most economical alternative.

A wireless vocalarm would allow scanner listeners to monitor the initial fire dispatches which are currently not transmitted over the radio. The Baltimore City and Prince George's County fire departments operate similar radio circuits to firehouses on 154.415 and 46.12, respectively.

BALTIMORE GETS NOTIFICATION FREQUENCY. Fire buff groups have used repeaters for several years in the Washington area for event notification. Both systems in Washington are affiliated with alphanumeric paging systems and operate on 452.975 (Citywide) and 453.0 (BNN). Now the Baltimore Metro Dispatch (BMD) alphanumeric paging notification system has been granted a license for a similar system on 464.425. BMD's founder, Chuck Hutchinson, says the radio committee is in the process of securing a tower site for the repeater system. We hope to have more details as they become available.

NEW FIRE FREQS FOR THREE EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES. Dorchester, Kent (MD) and Wicomico counties plan to move primary fire radio systems from low band to higher frequencies. Kent County licensed seven high band channels (153.77, 153.89, 153.95, 154.01, 154.07, 154.28 and 154.265). Refer to the last CHM issue for the interim channel plan. Wicomico County has licensed nine UHF channels (453.075, 453.1, 453.125, 453.175, 453.45, 453.6, 453.7, 453.8 and 460.525).

Dorchester County fire units recently started operating on the county's trunked

system (855.9875, 856.2625, 857.2625, 858.2625 and 859.2625). 46.06 simulcasts the trunked dispatch. Thanks to Chip Campbell and Bill Zittle for keeping us posted.

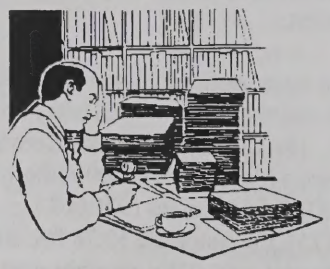
ARMED WITH A RADIO AND DANGEROUS? Sources say that staffers for Patrick Buchanan have been using 462.725 and 462.75r with a CTCSS of 173.8 in the mid-west. Keep these in mind the next time Buchanan is in town. Buchanan's team may use up to eight channels. As the candidates receive protection, try monitoring the Secret Service frequencies for the code names. During the 1992 election, many of the presidential candidates were named after birds. Cardinal and Falcon have been active in the last few weeks in the Washington area -- as they were during the 1992 election. Anyone know who they are?

SAMS CLUB. Almost all Sams Clubs and Wal-Marts, says a sales associate, use el cheapo radios. The Sams Club in Potomac Mills uses single-channel Motorola radios on one of the VHF common channels (try 151.625, 154.57 and 154.6).

ANDREWS AFB TRUNKED SYSTEM BEING TESTED. Within the past couple of weeks, ADW has begun testing a trunked system. So far, only three frequencies have been noted in use - 406.95; 408.75; and 409.65. For now, the system simply sumulcasts the security police (both law enforcement and security), the fire department, and some base operations. Also noted in use, but not yet a part of the trunked system, is an informal phone patch on 409.725.

BELVOIR TRUNKED SYSTEM MYSTERY SOLVED. Thanks to one of our loyal readers, the mystery surrounding the tenth output frequency for the Belvoir (actually MDW) trunked system has been solved. As always, the solution to a mystery is obvious. No one has been able to find the tenth frequency because there isn't one. For whatever reason, it is a nine-channel system.

CHARLES COUNTY FREQUENCY. Charles County has begun to use their second local government frequency - 453.625 - with a CTCSS of 110.9. The primary user seems to be Community Services.



NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker

FOR WHOM THE BUDGET TOLLS. The Feb. 17 Washington Post reported that Mayor Marion Barry's fiscal 1997 plan would, among other things, rotate three fire companies out of service at a savings of $3.5 million and eliminate the police helicopter division for a savings of $1.9 million. Savings are estimates for a full fiscal year.

PROPOSAL PUTS ARMED AND RADIO-EQUIPPED GUARDS IN DC SCHOOLS. D.C. officials, says the Jan. 31 Washington Post, are considering a proposal to post private armed guards outside the school in Southeast Washington where a student was fatally shot Jan. 19. School board member Terry Hairston (Ward 7) said Unlimited Security Inc., a company based in the 2400 block of Minnesota Avenue SE, has agreed to provide four armed guards during school hours for three months at no cost. The guards, he said, would patrol the grounds of Winston Education Center, at 31st and Erie streets SE, where an eighth-grader was shot.

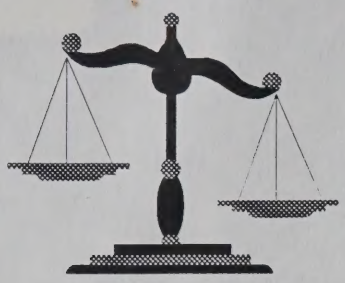
After the shooting Hairston said he contacted the chief of Unlimited Security Inc. to ask how much it would cost to hire private security outside Winston. The chief, who "is a product of D.C. public schools," Hairston said, was so moved that he offered to absorb the cost. Hairston added that the school would attempt to find ways to pay for the guards after the three months.

Hairston said the guards would start patrolling the school grounds as soon as the school system's legal department approves. Hairston submitted the idea of posting armed guards to the D.C. school superintendent. Currently, there are no armed security guards in any D.C. public school, although armed D.C. police officers patrol schools as part of their beats. The director of Protective Services for D.C. public schools said most elementary schools have at least one security aide. Each junior high and middle school has two security aides. Each high school has three.

Unlimited Security Inc. operates on 464.35 [94.8]. Staff at many D.C. high schools operate on 151.715 and 464.525. School security staff operate on 155.04 (CH1) and alternately on 153.935 (CH2).

NOT IN MY BACK YARD! By "placing an 800-megahertz tower just 500 feet from a residential area is directly threatening lives," warned Woodbridge resident Dawn Dovel in a letter which appeared in the Feb. 27 Washington Times. A study by an engineer, she said, concluded that the highest levels of power densities occur between 100 and 800 feet from these towers.

Moving the towers around or erecting additional towers may cost more money, Dovel writes, "but it may also save lives." The proposed tower location she is opposed to would be located on Herbert Drive. The tower would be used by Prince William County's planned 800 MHz trunked system. Communications with and documentation from Fairfax County, she said, support the development of co-locating a tower at the Lorton Landfill. The county, Dovel added, eliminated the Rockledge site "due to safety of the children."

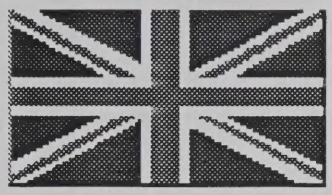


COURT SETS ASIDE FEDERAL COUNTS AGAINST MAN WHO MODIFIED TRUNKED RADIOS. Last summer a federal jury convicted Larry Nathan Gass of illegally modifying trunked radios that were used by his security company and the media to monitor Tulsa police's Motorola trunked radio system. The city allowed media outlets and the public to monitor only three of the system's 20 talkgroups. Gass was accused of modifying or ordering the modification of radios that were sold to two radio and one television station. The modified radios could receive most of the Tulsa Police channels.

One of Gass' employees admitted he used proprietary Motorola software he obtained at a hamfest or at radio shops. The software is restricted for Motorola's internal use. Following the verdicts on 17 counts, reported the Tulsa World, Gass said, "Whatever it takes and as long as it takes, this definitely will be appealed because we think the people have a right to know what their police are doing."

U.S. District Judge H. Dale Cook set aside all 17 federal counts against Gass. The judge ruled it was not a crime (at least in the Tulsa district) to intercept communications as long as they are readily accessible to the general public. The first assistant U.S. attorney said the appellate division of the U.S. Department of Justice would decide whether to appeal the ruling.

The Gass defense attorneys argued that the city had no reasonable expectation of privacy on its radio system which is not encrypted and whose frequencies are in the public domain. The attorneys argued that anyone with a scanner could pick up the channels. "In the case at bar, the communications were 'readily accessible to the general public.' based on the definition of that phrase in the relevant statute," Gass attorney James C. Lang said.



BUGGING PRINCE PHILIP. "A British scanner listener who taped Prince Philip's mobile phone call cut out parts which he mistakenly thought may have suggested an intimate relationship," reported the Feb. 2 Daily Mirror. "Royal eavesdropper Neville Hawkins, who picked up the private conversation between the prince and Lady Penny Romsey on his scanner, edited the tape before handing it over to a newspaper. He took out part of it because he misunderstood its meaning, an aide to the Duke said."

Philip, who spoke to Lady Romsey at 10 p.m. on Dec. 21, told her he had sent her a Christmas present. He added, "When you open it, make sure it's in the privacy of your bedroom." Radio ham Hawkins totally misunderstood the meaning of the remark, according to the Duke's staff.

"The aide said 'He thought it suggested intimacy between them, but in fact it was a cheeky message based on a joke which all the Royal Family enjoy. And in case you are wondering, the gift was not lingerie or anything of a sexual nature. He is a flirtatious fun character, but it was an *objet d'art* -- something which he thought Lady Romsey would enjoy.' Hawkins, 47, of Ingoldisthorpe, Norfolk, homed in on Philip while he staying at nearby Sandringham. Hawkins has been suspended from his job as a £14,000 maintenance electrician at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn. Police, who interviewed him twice, are studying the tape."

"I am ashamed of myself," Hawkins told reporters waiting outside a police station, where officers questioned him for 90 minutes. After milking two days of front-page stories out of the 17-minute conversation, the Sun said it won't pay Hawkins, who lost his job because of the publicity. The Sun said Hawkins asked for $75,000.

HOW EASY IS IT TO BUY A SCANNER IN ENGLAND? "Buying a scanner like the one that intercepted Prince Philip's call is as easy as purchasing a mobile phone," wrote reporter Adrian Shaw in the Jan. 31 Daily Mirror. "And it is all perfectly legal. I bought one yesterday for just £255," he said. "It was identical to the device used to bug the Prince. Within seconds of walking into ASK Electronics Ltd in London's Tottenham Court Road, an assistant was helpfully demonstrating just how simple it is to eavesdrop. And, as I paid for the Yupiteru MVT-7000, manager Ashok Patel boasted: 'That's the one that was used on the Duke of Edinburgh. It's very good.'"

"His colleague Paresh Patel added: 'It's all legal. You can listen in to whatever you want -- mobile phones, the police, military bases, anything.' The Yupiteru is on special offer in ASK's window, down from its usual price of £299. I bought The UK Scanning Directory to go with it. It is a kind of telephone directory for radio hams and lists 20,000 frequency numbers. You simply pick a frequency you are interested in -- in this case the mobile phone frequency -- and tap its number into the scanner. After a bit of haggling, they knocked £2.50 off the directory's £17.50 asking price."

"The scanner is remarkably simple to use. I left the shop at 9:45 a.m. and gave it a try. I tapped in the mobile code and, by 9:48, I was listening to my first call. It went like this: 'Hello Sharon, it's Steve here. Train's stuck again at Waterloo. Tell them I'll be half an hour late, love.' I tried my luck at picking up a bit of royal gossip outside Buckingham Palace at 10:30 a.m. But I didn't stumble on to a new Squidgygate or Camillagate Mark Two, just more of the same everyday public calls. Sadly for the amateur snoop, you cannot program your scanner to home in on any particular mobile phone. It picks them at random."

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the *Capitol Hill Monitors*. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues are $10 and include 12 issues (back issues cost $1 each). Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney. Members-ship will be prorated accordingly in the event of a postage increase.

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We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!